

**FY 2000 Subsistence Fisheries Project Narrative
Project #22**

Project Title: Hooper Bay Subsistence Salmon Test Fishing

Investigator Organizations: Hooper Bay Traditional Council, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division

Geographic Area: Yukon River

Information Type: Stock Status and Trends

Issue Addressed: Relatively large catches of chinook and summer chum salmon taken in coastal Yukon area communities are not formally monitored or sampled for age, sex, and size composition. Because these catches typically occur two to three days before the salmon enter the Yukon River mouth, they could form the basis for early season indications of run strength and age composition.

Study Objectives:

1. Collect, compile, and report catch rate statistics and age-sex-length (ASL) sample data from chinook and chum salmon catches in the Hooper Bay, and Black River subsistence fisheries.
2. Report summary data to the fisheries managers in Emmonak each day.

Project Description: This three-year project will consist of two technician-level staff, who will conduct daily interviews with subsistence fishers in the Hooper Bay, and Black River traditional subsistence salmon fishing areas to determine daily catch rates by species, and collect ASL samples from captured salmon from May through mid July. Catch rates will be calculated from catch and effort statistics following standard effort conventions established for all gill net fisheries statewide. Subsistence catches of chinook and chum salmon will be sampled for age, sex and length following Department-standard ASL catch sampling procedures.

Catch rate data will be summarized on forms provided by the Department, and reported to the area manager in the Emmonak office each day on the daily project reporting schedule. Preliminary sex proportions and length summary data will also be compiled on Department forms and relayed during the daily schedule. These data will be used by area management staff to preview the salmon runs two to three days before they enter the mouth of the Yukon River. This is especially critical in year 2000 because of a forecast for very poor chinook and chum salmon runs for the third year in a row, exacerbated by the heavy dependence on these stocks by commercial and subsistence salmon fishers.

Consultations Completed / Potential for Capacity Building: Initial consultations have been completed with the Hooper Bay Traditional Council, Hooper Bay City Office, and Association of Village Council Presidents who were all very supportive. This project will build local capacity by employing and training local residents of Hooper Bay to collect, compile, and report fundamental fisheries data.

Deliverables/Products: The primary deliverables will be a report that summarizes daily inseason catch rate and ASL statistics on captured chinook and chum salmon in the coastal Yukon area. Secondary deliverables will be raw catch and ASL data. Results will be reported in the Yukon area Annual Management Report.

Costs: \$90,000. The total cost of the project will be split between the Department of Fish and Game (\$10.7 k per year) and the Hooper Bay Traditional Council or City of Hooper Bay (\$19.3 k per year), largely for local hire.

Annual Budget Summary	Hooper Bay	ADF&G	Total
FY 2000	\$19.3 K	\$10.7 K	\$30.0 K
FY 2001	\$19.3 K	\$10.7 K	\$30.0 K
FY 2002	\$19.3 K	\$10.7 K	\$30.0 K
Total	\$57.9 K	\$32.1 K	\$90.0 K